

Talk with ADE

Friday February 23, 2007
Balsz Elementary District Board Room
10:00 AM

- Welcome by Lynn Busenbark and introductions
- Valerie Andrews discussed some preschool updates.
 - Even though the Early Childhood Unit is a separate unit they are still a part of ESS.
 - Valerie mentioned that we need to have 100% compliance with the In-by-3 indicator, which means that a child who has received services from AzEIP must have an IEP written and a service date set by the age of 3.
 - The early childhood department will be conducting a series of fall trainings in every school district.
 - Inclusion can be difficult for pre-kindergarten programs because they are not universal. Valerie mentioned possibly combining district programs.
 - Valerie encouraged districts, if they have issues with regard to licensure, to communicate with Department of Health Services, Office of Child Care and Licensing. She suggested that districts email Lourdes Ochoa.
 - Looking at each individual child for this program is important along with having a continuum of opportunity.
 - The Early childhood unit is aware of the barriers but are trying to think of ways to overcome them. She again encouraged everyone to be licensed even if they have less than 4 non-disabled preschool students.
 - There is a technical assistance document to help districts with hearing screening.
 - The unit is aware that the school facilities board is not recognizing the space issues that schools are having.
- Legislative Update
 - House bill 2184 regarding special education definitions has passed the floor with an amendment
 - House bill 2393 regarding surrogate parents is set to go to the floor next week. This would allow the Department of Education to appoint a surrogate parent. It would also allow the court to appoint a surrogate on an emergency basis.
 - House bill 2213 which would require schools to provide special education and related services to a student who turns 22 during the school year for the entire school year has passed the house education committee.
 - Senate bill 1487 which would increase the special education group A students weight from .003 to .087 has passed the senate house committee but is not on the agenda.

- Memo from Superintendent Horne
 - Lynn distributed a copy of a memo that will go out from Superintendent Horne regarding the labeling to PEA's in the state
- NIMAS/NIMAC
 - We have received 60% of the Opt in/opt out NIMAS/NIMAC forms. The problem we have found was that they were being returned with signatures from various departments of the district. This form was meant to be given to the Superintendent because it involves both general and special education. It was suggested that the original be sent to the person who signed the form and they give it to the Superintendent for his/her signature.
- Questions from the audience
 - The source of the graduation report dilemma is that the special education section of SAIS does not morph the information to the membership section of SAIS. The graduation information was pulled from the membership section, not the special education section.
 - Can a student have more than one disability code with one census code? Yes. Can they have more than one service delivery code. SAIS permits it but it is incorrect. Use only one service delivery code. Joe Zello from Mesa Unified stated that it would be helpful if they had a chart with the flow of data. Lynn said she would look in to this.
 - Will the indicators be linked to the labeling? At this point DOE is taking a very conservative viewpoint. Indicators 1-6 and 12 must be reported but the only one that will be used for the labeling is the percent tested.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday April 27, 2007.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.